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STATE

MEMPHIS STATE COLLEGE

Memphis, Tennessee

1956

FOOTBALL

Press, Radio and Television Information

Requests for photos or other special information should be addressed to the Sports Publicity Office at Memphis State

MEMPHIS STATE COLLEGE

Press, Radio, and Television Information

General Information:

LOCATED in Memphis, Tennessee whose metropolitan population is at 500,000

FOUNDED in 1909 by act of legislature; construction completed, college opened
in 1912.

1956 ENROLLMENT -- 3,553 (co-educational)

PRESIDENT -- J. Millard Smith

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR -- C. C. Humphreys

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH -- Ralph Hatley, his 10th season

TEAM COLORS -- Blue and Gray

ATHLETIC CONFERENCE -- Independent

ACCOMODATIONS -- Hotel Peabody, Hotel Claridge, Hotel King Cotton,

Hotel Chisca, Hotel William Len, Hotel Gayoso

OFFICIAL TELEPHONES -- Athletic Office: 48-7037

Publicity Office: 67-8407 or FAirfax 7-8407

MEMPHIS STATE COLLEGE

A Brief History

Founded in 1909 by the state legislature for the purpose of educating teachers for West Tennessee's public schools, Memphis State College has fulfilled that function with such success that it has become one of the South's greater teacher-training institutions. Through recent years, however, Memphis State's curricula have been expanded and developed to such an extent that it no longer serves primarily as a teacher training institution but offers study and degrees in many and varied fields.

The college was established by the General Education Law of 1909 and was erected on 80 acres of land contributed by the City of Memphis and Shelby County. The college opened in 1912. At the time of its construction Memphis State was located on the outskirts of the city, but now the college is almost within the heart of Memphis' swiftly expanding eastern residential district.

Memphis State boasts of being one of the few colleges in the nation to maintain a peak enrollment since World War II. Last Fall the enrollment stood at 3,553, an all-time high and more than twice the enrollment in 1946, when President J. Millard (Jack) Smith took the reins of leadership. Under President Smith's direction four schools were established and are in operation: the School of Arts and Sciences, which offers pre-professional training and the basic liberal arts work; the School of Business Administration, which provides a program of professional training at college level for those who wish business training; the School of Education, which provides a program of teacher education

to promote the growth and development necessary for successful teaching; and the Graduate School, which offers a program leading to the Master of Arts degree with majors in Educational Administration and Supervision, Curriculum, English, Geography, and History.

A new development of service was only recently announced. Beginning this Fall Memphis State will provide evening classes on the undergraduate level. On a limited basis to start, the program eventually will lead to a double shift of classes, one for day school students, the other for night school students. Memphis State has had experience with night school work in the operation of its Graduate School program, and a smooth undergraduate function is assured.

Memphis State is proud of its faculty and physical facilities. Over one-third of the faculty hold the Ph. D., or equivalent, degree, and professors of similar professional and academic standing are added to the faculty each year.

The college has offered its services through its excellent extension division which serves the distant counties of West Tennessee in fine fashion. Last year more than 1,000 persons were enrolled in extension classes. Memphis State also sponsored the West Tennessee high school Latin Tournament, Mathematics competition, Memphis and Shelby County Science Fair, regional band clinics, the Memphis Shakespeare Festival, the second annual Mid-South Leadership Seminar, a workshop in the arts, a program for teachers of the mentally retarded and physically handicapped, a program in ~~driver~~ education, a workshop for teachers in the elementary grades, a workshop in the reading program. The college played host to the West Tennessee Principals' Study Council for the third straight year.

A new women's dormitory will be opened this year, and a comparable men's residence hall is slated for opening in the second semester in construction highlights.

1956 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	LOCATION
Sept. 15	Arkansas Tech	8 p.m. CST	Memphis
Sept. 22	Tennessee Tech	8 p.m. CST	Cookeville, Tenn.
Sept. 29	Trinity (Texas)	8 p.m. CST	San Antonio, Texas
Oct. 6	Chattanooga	8 p.m. CST	Memphis
Oct. 13	Austin Peay	8 p.m. CST	Memphis
Oct. 20	Mississippi Southern	8 p.m. CST	Hattiesburg, Miss.
Oct. 27	Western Kentucky	8 p.m. CST	Memphis
Nov. 3	Arkansas State	8 p.m. CST	Memphis
Nov. 10	Ole Miss	2 p.m. CST	Memphis
Nov. 17	East Tennessee State	8 p.m. CST	Johnson City, Tenn.

1955 RESULTS

Trinity (Texas)	6,	Memphis State	0
Mississippi State	33,	Memphis State	0
Memphis State	20,	Murray State	7
Memphis State	20,	Tennessee Tech	12
Mississippi Southern	34,	Memphis State	14
Arkansas State	21,	Memphis State	20
Ole Miss	39,	Memphis State	6
Kentucky	41,	Memphis State	7
Chattanooga	25,	Memphis State	7

Total Points For MSC: 94

Total Points For Opponents: 218

OUTLOOK for 1956

REVIEW of 1955

Memphis State's grid forces embark on their second campaign with the split-T as their weapon, and opinion is that the Tigers will improve on last year's 2-7 mark which gave Ralph Hatley only his third losing season in nine years at the helm.

Confidence in the new formation - after a dry spell following nine years of single-wing warfare - has been gained, and Hatley has the nucleus of a sound ball club. Of course, the Tigers' mentor wishes he had more depth, but the first eleven should be a solid aggregation.

Eight starters from the '55 club will be back at their old stands, and these eight are a veteran crew. Six of 'em are seniors; the other two are juniors. There's considerable combat knowledge in that opening lineup. Two other starters are up from the No. 2 unit, and they're both seniors. A junior newcomer looks like the other starter.

Motivation is there for these lads, then. For most of 'em it will be their final college season. And they're anxious to get Memphis State back on the winning track after two losing efforts. In 1953, when most of the starters were freshmen, these same seniors had a hand in fashioning the last winning year with six victories against four losses.

This year's schedule offers better opportunity than last year's card, which listed three Southeastern Conference opponents. Ole Miss is the lone SEC foe this time around, but independent powers Mississippi Southern and Chattanooga are not far behind in fearsome ability.

Trinity of Texas, Arkansas State, and Tennessee Tech headline a group of good mid-bracket opponents, which include Western Kentucky, Arkansas Tech, and Austin Peay at Memphis and East Tennessee State at Johnson City.

Last year the fledgling "T" Tigers stood off a strong Trinity ground attack until three minutes of the final quarter before dropping a 6-0 defensive struggle in the season opener at home. Mississippi State followed that shutout with a 33-0 blanking of the Tigers in Starkville.

The Tigers seemed to find themselves against long-time foe Murray State and took the Thorobreds, 20-7, at Murray. Memphis State gained its second - and who would have guessed it to be the last - victory at the expense of tough Tennessee Tech, 20-12, in the Tigers' homecoming "must" game.

Then in rapid fire order the Tigers dropped five in a row. Mississippi Southern started the deluge with a powerful air attack, 34-14, in a game closer than the score indicates. Arkansas State shocked everybody (but A-State faithful) with a come-from-behind 21-20 decision on the arm of brilliant Tommy Spiers, Little All-America quarterback.

Ole Miss shook loose from dogged defenses and a scoreless first quarter, only a 13-0 halftime lead and 20-7 third quarter bulge to race in with a 39-6 verdict. Kentucky pulled away from a scant touchdown lead at the half to win by 41-7, and Chattanooga erased a Memphis State halftime lead to prevail by 25-7.

In analyzing the season one cannot fail to see how lack of depth hurt the Tigers. This ole nemesis once again is around, but the Tigers are bracing for the big effort.

Andy Nelson, who has done a magnificent job in transferring his grid talents from single-wing tailbacking to split-T quarterbacking is the key backfield operative. He is going after his fourth letter, and his coaches think he can be one of the top backs in the South this time around. The staff also is high on guard Cotton Clifford, a 200-pounder who should earn his fourth monogram also. Clifford is mobile despite his size,

and he's a smart player. He'll be a standout in the Tiger forewall.

Jerry Christopher and David Strickland return at either end. Both boys are seniors, tho Christopher has been with the club for four seasons (including this one) while Dave starts his second year. Strickland was a junior college all-stater in Mississippi.

The tackles will be manned by big (220) pound Bob Hazlett, a junior, and senior Glenn Essary, 205 pounds of determination. Essary will be playing his fourth straight season.

Clifford will team with Bob Henderson at guard to provide a senior duo. Like Clifford, Henderson is after his fourth letter, and it's expected he'll get it in rather spectacular style

Dick Disbrow returns at center to give senior experience at that post.

Behind Nelson will be hard-running Bob Brooks at fullback. Brooks, a 190-pound senior, looks for his best year. Junior Roland (Rusty) Smith and junior Frank Talerico look like the halfbacks. Smith lettered last year despite early season injury, and Talerico is a muchly praised ex-GI.

The Tigers will miss speedy John Meibaum at guard, solid Joe Billings at tackle, and Jerry King at halfback, but it is expected the breaches will be filled more than adequately by Henderson, Essary, and Talerico.

Nobody is going out on a limb to make predictions of success this early in the year, but all indications point to a general resurgence at Memphis State. You can look for some interesting and aggressive ball from the senior-studded Tiger team of 1956.

C. C. "SONNY" HUMPHREYS

Athletic Director

Athletic director at Memphis State since 1947, "Sonny" Humphreys is among the nation's youngest A.D.'s.

The 42-year old overseer of the Tigers' intercollegiate athletic program - and chairman of the Department of Health and Physical Education - played two years of football at Tennessee with Coach Ralph Hatley and held down an end post on the Vol squad in 1935 after Hatley had graduated.

For his performance in Orange and White he was mentioned on several "All" teams during each of the three years he was a regular, learning a lot of football from Gen. Bob Neyland in the bargain.

He went to what was then the junior college at Martin, Tenn., as line coach in 1936, coming to Memphis State in 1937 as Allyn McKeen's assistant.

He and McKeen put together the undefeated team of 1938 (highest scoring team in the nation that year), and when McKeen went to Mississippi State in 1939, Humphreys became head coach at Memphis State. In three years he produced a 17-14 won-lost record, had his best team cut in half in 1941 by the impending war. With 28 men on the roster, seven of them being freshmen, he nevertheless took six victories against three losses in the last pre-war season.

After a tour in the Pacific with the Navy during the war, he returned to Memphis State in 1947 in his present position. Since that time he and Hatley have teamed to build Memphis State football to an all-time high.

RALPH HATLEY

Head Coach

Chief of Memphis State's grid forces since 1947, Ralph Hatley enters his 10th campaign at the Tiger helm determined to snap back from last year's 2-7 season.

The Tiger mentor views the 1955 season philosophically inasmuch as it was the first time any Memphis State team ran a formation other than the single-wing since he has been head coach. Lack of experience with the split-T and that old bugaboo - lack of depth - teamed to squelch hopes for a bright year.

This time around the 42-year old grid boss figures some polish will be evident on the '55 rough diamond. Some 20 lettermen return, including six or seven from the No. 1 unit. This factor is pleasing enough, but lack of depth still poses a problem of major proportion. A number of men who earned letters last year did so in their first season, and it's problematical how much help they can offer over the tough Tiger schedule.

Hatley is proud of two men in particular - quarterback Andy Nelson and guard Cotton Clifford. These two are expected to anchor Memphis State defenses as well as spark the offense. Each is seeking his fourth letter, and Nelson has developed into a capable T quarterback after two seasons as single-wing tailback.

The soft-spoken Hatley has a career record of 48 victories, 35 losses, and four ties at MSC. Fifteen of the losses have been at the hands of SEC foes: Ole Miss six times; Vanderbilt twice; Mississippi State four times, and Kentucky three times. Hatley's teams have scored 1,969 points and have yielded 1,293.

The balding coach is a firm believer in fundamentals. "Ninety percent of our game is conditioning and precision in blocking and tackling," he tells his squad. And he puts equal stress on defense, saying, "there are as many ways to score on defense as on the offense."

Hatley was graduated from Tennessee in 1936 and was captain of the 1934 Vol eleven. He received All-Southeastern mention at guard. In 1950 he received the Master of Arts degree from his alma mater. He holds the academic rank of professor of physical education. He is married and has two children.

ASSISTANT COACHES

Ken Donahue

Line coach and a former tackle on the Tennessee football teams in the late '40s and early '50s, Donahue is known for molding excellent linemen. Even in slim years Donahue has developed keen defensive units. He has turned out several small and middle college All-Americans. Donahue holds the Master's degree from Tennessee and has done further work at New York University. He is single.

Larry Smith

End coach and team trainer, Smith played under Allyn McKeen at Mississippi State prior to World War II. He came to Memphis State in 1949 and earned the M.A. degree from Memphis State. Smith serves as golf coach also and annually fields a topflight competitive crew. In 1954 Smith coached the national collegiate and southern intercollegiate golf champion. Smith is married and has one child.

Paul Davis

Paul Davis came to the Memphis State staff for the explicit purpose of working with T formation operators. He will handle the backfield once again. A 1947 graduate of Ole Miss, Davis was a blocking back under Harry Mehre in 1942 prior to spending three years in World War II action. He returned to Ole Miss in 1946, playing as center and co-captain under Red Drew.

From 1947 through 1950 he coached at New Albany, Miss., high school. He then went to Jones Junior College, where he coached Jackie Parker, former Mississippi State great, the SEC's most valuable player, and now a professional grid star. Davis holds the M. A. degree from Mississippi Southern. He is married and has two children.

Charles Brewer

Charles "Red" Brewer, who will handle the freshman team chores, is remembered for a memorable performance as a Memphis State tailback in 1951, when he threw three touchdown passes against Mississippi State and had a fourth nullified by an official decision which later was pretty well proved in newspaper and motion pictures to be in error. With that score the Tigers probably would have defeated their first SEC opponent, since the Statesmen were trailing by only one point in the last quarter.

Brewer, who also was a heavy hitting baseball star for the Tigers, has just returned from military service. He is married and has one child. He will work toward the M. A. degree in the Memphis State graduate school.

MEMPHIS STATE COLLEGE

Football Results

Since Resumption After World War II

1947

Won 6, Lost 2, Tied 1

Memphis State

0
13
26
7
21
54
58
19
40

238

Opponent

Middle Tennessee State 20
Missouri School of Mines 0
Centenary College 7
Murray State 14
Union University 0
Pensacola Naval Base 0
Millington Naval Base 0
Arkansas State 19
Austin Peay State 0

...Total... 60

1948

Won 6, Lost 5, Tied 0

0
13
14
36
21
45
21
13
0
34
14

211

Missouri School of Mines 6
University of Louisville 7
Murray State 26
Tampa University 16
Naval Air Training Base 27
Athens College 0
Union University 0
Middle Tennessee State 0
NATTC 14
Arkansas State 13
Louisiana Tech 20

...Total... 129

1949

Won 9, Lost 1, Tied 0

7
70
34
47
49
21
34
27
61
35

384

University of Mississippi 40
Tampa University 6
Washington University 0
Delta State 0
Pensacola Naval Base 0
Kansas State 14
Murray State 6
Louisiana College 0
Arkansas State 7
Union University 0

...Total... 73

1950

Won 9, Lost 2, Tied 0

Memphis State

64
7
76
26
54
20
23
25
60
13
6

394

Opponent

Union University	0
University of Mississippi	39
Memphis Navy	7
Chattanooga	8
Washington University	0
Southwestern Louisiana	0
Murray State	6
Louisiana College	12
Arkansas State	7
Vanderbilt	29
Louisiana Tech	0
...Total...	<hr/> 104

1951

Won 5, Lost 3, Tied 0

0
26
41
38
61
20
13
7

206

University of Mississippi	32
Louisiana Tech	14
Southwestern Louisiana	7
Western Kentucky	0
East Central Oklahoma	0
Mississippi State	27
Chattanooga	0
Vanderbilt	13
...Total...	<hr/> 93

1952

Won 2, Lost 7, Tied 0

6
20
7
34
6
14
29
0
25

141

University of Mississippi	54
Mississippi Southern	27
Louisiana Tech	26
Murray State	7
Chattanooga	23
North Texas State	38
University of Louisville	25
Tennessee Tech	35
Southeastern Louisiana	29
...Total...	<hr/> 264

1953

Won 6, Lost 4, Tied 0

Memphis State

6
7
13
20
14
20
27
0
7
21
135

Opponent

Mississippi State 34
Chattanooga 6
Louisiana Tech 7
Murray State 0
Tennessee Tech 7
Middle Tennessee 26
Mississippi Southern 13
Arkansas State 20
University of Kentucky 7
Southeastern Louisiana 7
... Total ... 140

1954

Won 3, Lost 4, Tied 3

7
13
6
34
25
27
26
0
7
21
166

Mississippi State 27
Tulane 13
Abilene Christian 6
Murray State 6
Tennessee Tech 25
Middle Tennessee 7
Arkansas State 7
University of Mississippi 51
University of Kentucky 33
Mississippi Southern 34
... Total ... 209

1955

Won 2, Lost 7, Tied 0

0
0
20
20
14
20
6
7
7
94

Trinity (Texas) 6
Mississippi State 33
Murray State 7
Tennessee Tech 12
Mississippi Southern 34
Arkansas State 20
University of Mississippi 39
University of Kentucky 41
Chattanooga 25
... Total ... 218

1956 VARSITY ROSTER

Number	Position and Personnel	Class	Ltrs.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
<u>ENDS</u>						
81	David Strickland	Senior	1	5:11	195	Holly Springs, Miss.
82	James Gibbons	Junior	1	5:10	180	Newbern, Tenn.
83	Tommy Muirhead	Junior	0	5:11	180	Canton, Miss.
85	Jerry Richards	Junior	2	5:11	178	Trumann, Ark.
86	John Ruth	Junior	0	5:11	183	New Orleans
88	Bill Carrington	Soph	0	6	190	Bartlett, Tenn.
89	Jerry Christopher	Senior	3	6	175	Athens, Ala.
<u>TACKLES</u>						
74	Bob Hazlett	Junior	2	6:5	220	Oak Ridge, Tenn.
76	Wayne Hudson	Junior	0	6:2	205	New Albany, Miss.
78	Jim Disalvo	Soph	0	6	195	Memphis
79	Glenn Essary	Senior	2	6:1	205	Lexington, Tenn.
73	Bill Bedgood	Junior	1	6:1	190	Whitehaven, Tenn.
<u>GUARDS</u>						
60	Coleman Lannum	Soph	1	5:11	175	Osceola, Ark.
61	Cotton Clifford	Senior	3	6	200	Whitehaven, Tenn.
63	Jack Turner	Junior	1	6	180	Paragould, Ark.
64	Jim Owens	Soph	0	5:11	185	Athens, Ala.
65	Orville Crowell	Soph	0	5:11	180	Wynne, Ark.
66	Herb Buckner	Soph	0	5:11	185	Knoxville, Tenn.
69	Bob Henderson	Senior	3	5:10	183	South Pittsburg, Tenn.

CENTERS

51	Verlon Long	Soph	0	5:2	190	Alcoa, Tenn.
53	Dick Disbrow	Senior	2	6:1	180	Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
56	Rex Tatum	Junior	2	6:3	188	Milan, Tenn.
57	Harold Hunter	Senior	1	6	195	Midland City, Ala.

QUARTERBACKS

10	Bill Weaver	Soph	0	5:10	170	Jackson, Tenn.
11	James Armstrong	Junior	0	5:10	175	Memphis
14	Andy Nelson	Senior	3	6:1	170	Athens, Ala.
15	James Leonard	Junior	1	5:11	165	Dyersburg, Tenn.
16	Nick Buoni	Soph	0	5:10	167	Memphis

RIGHT HALFBACKS

23	Jimmy Lovelace	Soph	0	5:11	170	Ripley, Tenn.
25	Roland Smith	Junior	1	6	178	New Orleans
34	Bobby Young	Soph	0	5:7	158	Union City, Tenn.
41	Pete Meadows	Senior	0	5:10	175	Lexington, Tenn.

LEFT HALFBACKS

20	Earl Cato	Soph	0	5:11	160	Hartsville, Tenn.
21	Bobby Stokes	Fresh	0	5:7	165	Greenwood, Miss.
32	Frank Talerico	Soph	0	5:10	170	Herkimer, N. Y.
33	Eddie Gebara	Junior	0	5:6	155	Pensacola, Fla.

FULLBACKS

24	Frank Massa	Junior	0	5:10	175	New Orleans
31	Bob Schmidt	Junior	1	6:1	200	Kirklin, Ind.

FULLBACKS (Cont'd)

40	Charles Johnson	Soph	0	6:1	180	Nashville, Tenn.
42	Jan Craig	Junior	0	6	180	Memphis
45	Bob Brooks	Senior	2	6:1	190	McKenzie, Tenn.

V A R S I T Y D E P T H C H A R T
Probable Substitution Order

LEFT END

89 Jerry Christopher
85 Jerry Richards
88 Bill Carrington

LEFT TACKLE

74 Bob Hazlett
78 Jim Disalvo
 Rodney Thomas

LEFT GUARD

69 Bob Henderson
63 Jack Turner
60 Coleman Lannum

RIGHT END

81 David Strickland
82 James Gibbons
86 John Ruth

RIGHT TACKLE

79 Glenn Essary
76 Wayne Hudson
73 Bill Bedgood

RIGHT GUARD

61 Cotton Clifford
64 Jim Owens
66 Herb Buckner

CENTER

53 Dick Disbrow
56 Rex Tatum
57 Harold Hunter

QUARTERBACK

14 Andy Nelson
15 James Leonard
16 Nick Buoni

LEFT HALFBACK

20 Earl Cato
32 Frank Talerico
33 Eddie Gebara

RIGHT HALFBACK

25 Roland Smith
34 Bobby Young
23 Jimmy Lovelace

FULLBACK

45 Bob Brooks
42 Jan Craig
31 Bob Schmidt

VARSDTY SQUAD LIST -- NUMERICAL

Number	Name	Position
10	Billy Weaver	Quarterback
11	James Armstrong	Quarterback
14	Andy Nelson	Quarterback
15	James Leonard	Quarterback
16	Nick Buoni	Quarterback
20	Earl Cato	Left halfback
21	Bobby Stokes	Left halfback
23	Jimmy Lovelace	Right halfback
24	Frank Massa	Fullback
25	Roland Smith	Right halfback
31	Bob Schmidt	Fullback
32	Frank Talerico	Left halfback
33	Eddie Gebara	Left halfback
34	Bobby Young	Right halfback
40	Charles Johnson	Fullback
41	Pete Meadows	Right halfback
42	Jan Craig	Fullback
45	Bob Brooks	Fullback
51	Verlon Long	Center
53	Dick Disbrow	Center
56	Rex Tatum	Center
57	Harold Hunter	Center
60	Coleman Lannum	Left Guard

61	Cotton Clifford	Right Guard
63	Jack Turner	Left Guard
64	Jim Owens	Right Guard
65	Orville Crowell	Right Guard
66	Herb Buckner	Right Guard
69	Bob Henderson	Left Guard
73	Bill Bedgood	Right Tackle
74	Bob Hazlett	Left Tackle
76	Wayne Hudson	Right Tackle
78	Jim Disalvo	Left Tackle
79	Glenn Essary	Right Tackle
81	David Strickland	Right End
82	James Gibbons	Right End
83	Tommy Muirhead	Left End
85	Jerry Richards	Left End
86	John Ruth	Right End
88	Bill Carrington	Left End
89	Jerry Christopher	Left End

PERSONNEL SKETCHES

Members of No. 1 and No. 2 Units

Left Ends

No.

- 89 JERRY CHRISTOPHER...Senior from Athens, Ala...6'...175 pounds...
Excellent receiver...Runs like a halfback when he gets the ball...Pound
for pound is best flankman on the squad...Knack of getting open...Will
start at this position...Seeks his fourth letter...Scored twice last year.
- 85 JERRY RICHARDS...Junior from Trumann, Ark...5:11...178 pounds...
A converted halfback who has played end capably...Better than fair
receiver and defender...Was No. 2 right end last season...Holding down
responsible job this year.

Left Tackles

74. BOB HAZLETT...Junior from Oak Ridge, Tenn...6:5...220 pounds...
Big Bob is very strong and aggressive...Lettered as a freshman...An
outstanding operator on penetration plays...Will be hard to move...
Can be a stickout in the line.
- 78 JIM DISALVO...Sophomore from Memphis...A bit small for tackle, but
this six-foot, 195 pounder has good form and execution of assignment as
distinct assets...A standout on the field in intra-squad competition, Jim
is expected to do well by his coaches.

Left Guards

- 69 BOB HENDERSON...Senior from South Pittsburg, Tenn...5:10...183
pounds...Lettered three consecutive years...Pierce competitor...
Achieving peak of a fine football career...Was one of top freshmen in
1953 campaign which wrought creditable 5-4 record...Moved to linebacker,
he hits as hard as any lineman pound for pound.
- 63 JACK TURNER...Junior from Vanndale and Paragould, Ark...6'...180
pounds...Moved from end where he lettered last season...An all-state
prep lineman...A solid asset to the club...Should help out at this spot.

Centers

- 53 DICK DISBROW...Senior from Mt. Vernon, N.Y...6'...180 pounds...
Outstanding man for downfield work...Top linebacker who hits like a mule...
Has made a top job of conversion from single-wing center to split-T
pivot man.

- 56 REX TATUM...Junior from Milan, Tenn...6:3...188 pounds...Great competitive spirit keeps Tatum alive as possible starter at this post... He has lettered twice under plenty tough conditions...Good with the snap...Solid defender.

Right Guards

- 61 COTTON CLIFFORD...Senior from Whitehaven, Tenn...6'...200 pounds... One of the truly outstanding linemen who ever attended MSC...Seeking fourth letter in a solid career...Has been used at tackle, but seems at home at guard...Dependable...Cool thinker...Aggressive.
- 64 JIM OWENS...Sophomore from Athens, Ala...5:11...185 pounds...A hard worker who gets the job done in solid fashion...Unspectacular, but dependable...Much of this year's success depends on him...Up from No. 3 guard post.

Right Tackles

- 79 GLENN ESSARY...Senior from Lexington, Tenn...6:1...205 pounds... Top potential for excellent work...Has made steady progress since start as a freshman...Has won two letters...Should add to the squad's advance...Tireless...Great will to win and accomplish.
- 76 WAYNE HUDSON...Junior from New Albany, Miss...6:2...205 pounds... An ex-GI who played service ball in Germany...Potentially a keen operative... Lacks spring prztice, but should be at peak form by mid-season...Junior college player.

Right Ends

- 81 DAVID STRICKLAND...Senior from Holly Springs, Miss...5:11...195 pounds...All-State junior college man at Booneville...Veteran...Fine speed...Top receiver...Has played fullback...Powerful runner with ball.
- 82 JIM GIBBONS...Junior from Newbern, Tenn...5:10...180 pounds... A strong boy whose ruggedness and good blocking make him an ideal end... He is a good competitor who excels on defense.

Quarterbacks

- 14 ANDY NELSON...Senior from Athens, Ala...6:1...170 pounds...His great football ability has enabled Nelson to shift from tailback in single-wing offense to split-T general in one season with little difficulty...An excellent runner who can go off the option...Accurate passer...With proper protection he'll hurt anybody in the air...37-plus kicker for three seasons...Above average defender...Could be one of the best backs in the South this season.

- 15 JAMES (Bubba) LEONARD...Junior from Dyersburg, Tenn...5:10...165 pounds...Smooth ball handler...Good punter...Has potential to be a top-flight quarterback...Can pass well...Intelligent signal-caller...Showed outstanding progress in annual spring game.

Left Halfbacks

- 32 FRANK TALERICO...Sophomore from Herkimer, N. Y...5:10...170 pounds...An ex-GI who played service ball in Alaska last year...An excellent pass defender...Could be the best punter Memphis State has ever had... Good speed and power.
- 20 EARL CATO...Sophomore from Hartsville, Tenn...5:11...160 pounds... Up from redshirt unit...Has great speed...Probably fastest on the squad... Dangerous when he gets loose...A topnotch pass receiver to boot.

Right Halfbacks

- 25 ROLAND (Rusty) SMITH...Junior from New Orleans...6:1...178 pounds... Despite being hospitalized by appendicitis last year, Smith came back to play top job at halfback and won his first letter...An injured leg slowed his spring activity, but he's expected to be a key man in the Tigers' T.
- 34 BOBBY YOUNG...Sophomore from Union City, Tenn...5:7...158 pounds... A good runner and stout defender...Missed much of spring practice when injured, but coaching staff rates him a threat to Smith as a starter.

Fullbacks

- 45 BOB BROOKS...Senior from McKenzie, Tenn...6:1...190 pounds... Exceptional straight ahead power...Tough on defense...Has won two letters...Can kick or pass when called upon...Should have his finest year.
- 42 JAN CRAIG...Junior from Memphis...6'...180 pounds...Spring practice revealed that Craig was hardest runner on the field...Certainly will add strength at fullback slot...Runs like coaches want him to...An all-city performer for Memphis Tech High.

1955 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Memphis State's statistical effectiveness during the college's first season with the split-T formation was heartening when compared with statistics of the 1954 season, a year four Southeastern Conference teams were played.

The Tigers once again ran fewer plays than the combined opposition, but an over-all improvement is noted in team defense and particularly in the matter of pass defense. The Tigers continued to show an edge in the kicking department.

Memphis State ran 40 fewer plays than in 1954, but opponents were held down by 70 plays. Still, foes managed 20 more plays per game (63 to 43 on the average) than Memphis State.

Enemy rushing effectiveness improved by only one-tenth of a yard on the average, while the foe's passing attack fell off by two and one-half yards per completion. Memphis State suffered a half yard decline per carry in its rushing game, but showed a 3.6 yard per completion improvement over the 1954 season. In total offense the fledgling split-T Tigers showed a decline of half a yard compared to opponents' decline of three-tenths of a yard.

Stouter pass defense lopped off almost 300 yards from the 1954 yardage amassed by opponents, as Tiger defenders reduced the earlier 1,004 yards gained to 722 in 1955. Also, only six passes went for touchdowns as compared to 10 in the porous 1954 season.

Opponents had an average of 4.6 yards per play compared to MSC's 3.9 yards per try, indicating ball control to be a key factor in enemy success. MSC averaged 37.6 yards per punt to edge the opposition's 36.1 average. The figures are not too disheartening considering the new formation and strength of schedule.

FOOTBALL STATISTICS

RUSHING

	MSC	OPP
Times Carried	332	434
Yards Gained	1411	2096
Yards Lost	262	238
Net Gain	1149	1858
Average Per Carry	3.5	4.3
(1954 averages:	4.0	4.2)

PASSING

	MSC	OPP
Attempts	102	131
Completions	33	59
Percent Complete	32.3	45.1
Intercepted	12	12
Net Gain	519	722
Scoring Passes	3	6
Average per Pass	15.7	12.2

TOTAL OFFENSE

	MSC	OPP
Total Plays	434	565
Net Gain	1688	2580
Average Per Play	3.9	4.6
(1954 Averages:	4.4	4.9)

PUNTING

	MSC	OPP
Number Punts	62	42
Yards Punted	2329	1515
Blocked	3	1
Average	37.6	36.1
(1954 Averages:	37.6	33.1)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Player	Carries	RUSHING		Net Gain	Average Per Try	TD
		Yards Gain	Yards Loss			
Jerry King, HB	30	159	0	159	5.3	
Bob Brooks, FB	63	296	3	293	4.7	2
Bob Schmidt, FB	18	81	0	81	4.5	1
Rusty Smith, HB	15	66	0	66	4.4	
Don Thompson, FB	5	22	0	22	4.4	
Dave Griffith, HB	18	72	2	70	3.9	
Gerald Bush, HB	28	109	7	102	3.6	1
Larry Wright, HB	15	54	4	50	3.3	
Pete Meadows, FB	5	17	1	16	3.2	
Andy Nelson, QB	99	443	200	243	2.5	7
Robert Elam, QB	14	42	17	25	1.8	
Larry House, HB	13	33	16	17	1.3	
Bubba Leonard, QB	6	8	6	2	.3	
Jack Kelley, HB	3	9	6	3	1.0	
TOTALS	332	1411	262	1149	3.5	11

	PASSING					
	Attempts	Completions	PCT.	YDS.	INT.	TD
Andy Nelson, QB	86	30	35	425	8	2
Bubba Leonard, QB	7	2	29	72	1	1
Robert Elam, QB	9	1	11	22	3	0
TOTALS	102	33	32	519	12	3

PASS RECEIVING

	Number Caught	Yards Gain	TD
David Strickland, end	5	119	1
Jerry Christopher, end	7	138	2
Rusty Smith, halfback	4	77	
Jerry Richards, end	7	92	
Jimmy Gibbons, end	3	38	
Jerry King, halfback	2	24	
Ken Mathis, end	2	19	
Larry House, halfback	2	9	
Larry Wright, halfback	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTALS	33	519	3

PUNTING

	Times Kicked	Yards	Average	Blocked
Andy Nelson, QB	18	682	42.6	2
Dave Griffith, HB	36	1342	38.3	1
Jerry Christopher, end	5	194	38.8	
Robert Elam, QB	2	60	30.0	
Bubba Leonard, QB	<u>1</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>51.0</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTALS	62	2329	37.6	3

SCORING

	TDs	Rush	Pass	EPA	EP	Total
Andy Nelson, QB	7	7	0	0	0	42
Bob Brooks, FB	2	2	0	0	0	12

SCORING (Cont'd)

	TD	Rush	Pass	EPA	EP	Total Points
Jerry Christopher, end	2	0	2	0	0	12
Bubba Leonard, QB	0	0	0	10	8	8
Gerald Bush, HB	1	1	0	0	0	6
Bob Schmidt, FB	1	1	0	0	0	6
Dave Strickland, end	1	0	1	0	0	6
Dave Griffith, halfback	0	0	0	4	2	2
TOTALS	14	11	3	14	10	94

PUNT RETURNS

	Number Returns	Yards Returned	Average
Bubba Leonard, QB	3	52	17.3
Gerald Bush, halfback	2	19	9.5
Bob Brooks, fullback	2	14	7.0
Robert Elam, QB	5	35	7.0
Jerry King, halfback	1	6	6.0
Andy Nelson, QB	7	14	2.0
Dave Griffith, halfback	4	3	.8
Bob Schmidt, fullback	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	26	143	5.5

KICKOFF RETURNS

Dave Griffith, halfback	4	102	25.5
Gerald Bush, halfback	2	51	25.5
Jerry King, halfback	5	117	23.4
Jack Kelley, halfback	2	46	23.0
Andy Nelson, QB	11	250	22.7

KICKOFF RETURNS

(Cont'd)

Rusty Smith, halfback	4	76	19.0
Larry House, halfback	2	34	17.0
Bob Schmidt, fullback	1	15	15.0
Robert Elam, QB	1	9	9.0
Larry Wright, halfback	5	37	7.4
Bob Brooks, FB	1	0	0
Jerry Richards, end	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	39	737	18.9

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

Robert Elam, QB	6	for	45 yards
Bob Schmidt, fullback	1	for	25 yards
Larry House, halfback	1	for	19 yards
Andy Nelson, QB	1	for	4 yards
Gerald Bush, halfback	1	for	0
Bubba Leonard, QB	1	for	0
Jerry King, halfback	<u>2</u>	for	<u>0</u>
TOTALS	12	for	93 yards

Memphis State - First downs 55 by rushing, 18 by passing, 6 by penalty, total 79.

Penalties: 69 for 729 yards. Fumbles: 31, Lost 21.

Opponents - First downs 95 by rushing, 42 by passing, 5 by penalty, total 142.

Penalties: 72 for 822 yards. Fumbles: 25, Lost 13.

Interception returns: 12 for 178 yards. Punt returns: 37 for 425 yards.

Kickoff returns: 17 for 331 yards. TDs: 33 -- 27 rushing, 6 passing.

Extra Points Attempted: 33; made 20, total points 218.

TOTAL OFFENSE

	Times Carried	Rushing	Passing	Net Gain
Andy Nelson, QB	185	243	425	668
Bob Brooks, fullback	63	293	0	293
Jerry King, halfback	30	159	0	159
Gerald Bush, halfback	38	102	0	102
Bob Schmidt, fullback	18	81	0	81
Bubba Leonard, QB	13	2	72	74
Dave Griffith, halfback	18	70	0	70
Rusty Smith, halfback	15	66	0	66
Larry Wright, halfback	15	50	0	50
Robert Elam, QB	23	25	22	47
Don Thompson, fullback	5	22	0	22
Larry House, halfback	13	17	0	17
Pete Meadows, fullback	5	16	0	16
Jack Kelley, halfback	3	3	0	3
TOTALS	434	1149	519	1668

218 points by opponents last year was second highest total ever scored against a Memphis State team coached by Ralph Hatley. Highest total was 264 in 1952, a similar 2-7 year. 94 points scored by MSC was lowest of any Hatley team. Previously the team had never scored below 100 points. Highest total was 394 in 1950, when Memphis State won 9, Lost only 2.

ADDS to PRESS BOOK

Although an independent, Memphis State is a member of the NCAA and the Tennessee Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (TIAC). The TIAC does not sponsor a football competition. For the past two years the Tiger track team has won the TIAC crown, and MSC enters tennis and golf teams in the annual TIAC tourneys in these fields.

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MEMPHIS NEWS OUTLETS

Charles Love, sports department, The Commercial Appeal (morning & Sunday)

Buck Patton, sports department, Memphis Press-Scimitar (evening)

Leo Soroka, United Press Bureau

***** The above three writers have the same mailing addresses: 495 Union Avenue

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The United Press Bureau services all Memphis radio stations, but the following sportscasters should be included for special mailings:

Bob Peters, Radio Station WMC, Goodwyn Institute Building

Gene Roper, WHBQ Television, 1381 Madison Avenue

George Mooney, % Radio Station WHHM, Sterick Building

Tom York, WMC Television, Goodwyn Institute Building

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Both newspapers will use mats at times, though glossy prints are preferred.

TV stations often will use glossies of your very best players.

SPECIAL: Add to football press guide.

TIGERS SIGN MORRIS

Memphis State has appointed former Mississippi State player Tom 'Pap' Morris to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of line coach Ken Donahue, athletic director C. C. Humphreys announced on August 6.

Donahue, who tutored the Tiger linemen for four seasons, has accepted a coaching job with Tennessee, his alma mater.

Morris, a 1953 graduate of Mississippi State, was working out with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian professional football league when contacted by Memphis State officials.

He is due to report about the 16th of the month from his home in Columbiana, Ala. The Tigers start grid practice on Sept. 1, with just two weeks of workouts before the opener on Sept. 15 against Arkansas Tech in Memphis' Crump Stadium.

Morris played under Murray Warmath at Mississippi State on the same team with All-America Jackie Parker. He was a tackle.

MSC head coach Ralph Hatley expressed pleasure with Morris' acceptance, since Morris came up under the same sort of T formation Memphis State installed for the first time last year.

Hatley said he is looking for an improved season this year. Morris will have about 14 lettermen to work with in the line. He will team with Hatley in the over-all task of fashioning a combat-ready forward wall. Other Tiger coaches include Paul Davis, backs, Larry Smith, ends, and Charles 'Red' Brewer, freshmen.

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Donahue turned out several all-star linemen, most notable being guard Bob Patterson who twice was No. 1 guard on the Williamson Middle All-America team and once was named to the Associated Press No. 1 Little All-America eleven.